

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

by Harper Lee

Read pages 96 – 118, which takes us up to the end of the first part of the novel. You will probably notice that, as before, Lee is injecting potted, isolated incidents that serve the purpose of teaching the children valuable lessons about themselves, the community and growing up generally.

When you have thoroughly familiarised yourselves with these pages write notes about the following;

- a) The children's attitude towards their father at the very beginning of CHAPTER 10
- b) The way in which the author reverses this opinion by the end of the chapter.
- c) What this chapter reveals about Atticus' personality.
- d) The differing way that Jem and Scout react to the events at the close of the chapter and what this reveals about them.
- e) What is the significance of the comments about the mockingbirds on p96, and do these words have wider relevance to the novel yet?
- f) Analyse Miss Maudie's views on Atticus as expressed on p104.

Chapter 11 introduces us to another cameo character, Mrs Henry Lafayette Dubose, she has been mentioned before but she only appears in person in this chapter. Sure enough, she is included in the book as an extension to the children's steep learning curve, in this case, Jem's.

- g) Explain Jem's premeditated actions on the way home from buying the steam-engine and baton.
- h) Comment on the specific examples of adult retrospective narration in this chapter and what this adds to the telling of the events.
- i) Note, and comment on, the ground work that Atticus does in preparing the children for the events that are now imminent in their lives with the coming summer.
- j) Comment on the atmosphere the Harper Lee evokes inside Mrs Dubose's house.
- k) Comment on the child's perspective of Mrs Dubose's physical and mental condition.
- l) Analyse Atticus' advice to Scout on p114 – 115.
- m) Comment on Jem's behaviour at the end of the chapter, after Mrs Dubose's death.
- n) Look carefully at Atticus' words to Jem in the penultimate paragraph of this chapter (p118). Analyse the content of these words of advice.
- o) At the close of Part One of the novel, what do you consider to be the prevailing themes and issues that will be further addressed and explored in Part Two?